

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Akiko SHIRAI
Title: DOCUMENT FILING METHOD
AND SYSTEM
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 12/18/2001
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Box PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document A1 relates to a device and method for document filing.

Document A2 relates to a device and method for retrieving document element.

Document A3 relates to a method for retrieving document file.

Document A5 relates to an electronic picture filing device.

The relevance of the Document A4 is described in the present specification.

English translations of the foreign documents are not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are attached to Documents A1-A5.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 18, 2001

FOLEY & LARDNER
Customer Number: 22428



22428

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Telephone: (202) 672-5407
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Thomas G. Blumenthal Reg. No. 43,438

/s/ David A. Blumenthal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,257

Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 040425-0152		SERIAL NO. Unassigned	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Akiko SHIRAI			
				FILING DATE 12/18/2001		GROUP ART UNIT Unassigned	

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	A1	9-81583	03/1997	Japan				Abst.
	A2	6-162104	06/1994	Japan				Abst.
	A3	60-160475	08/1985	Japan				Abst.
	A4	62-279468	12/1987	Japan				Abst.
	A5	2-41566	02/1990	Japan				Abst.

OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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* **EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.